

**UNIFIED ARIZONA VETERANS (UAV) , P.O. BOX 34338, PHOENIX, AZ 85067**

**MINUTES OF THE UNIFIED ARIZONA VETERANS GENERAL MEETING**

**HELD ON DECEMBER 6, 2008, AT ARIZONA STATE VETERAN HOME,**

**4141 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Phoenix 85012**

**Call to Order:** The regular business meeting of the Unified Arizona Veterans was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman Gary Fredricks with proper ceremonies.

**The roll was called and a quorum established for conducting business.**

**Motion made and seconded to accept the Minutes as distributed. Motion carried.**

**Communications and Correspondence: None.**

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Adams reported a previous balance of \$1002.62, less a \$100 donation to the AZ State Veteran Home and \$50 for 2 gift cards for exceptional service by wait staff at the October 25 AVHOF luncheon.

**Vice Chair Brody reported deposits of \$100 dues from the American Legion and \$25 dues from the AZ Council of MOAA, resulting in a balance of \$730.32 in the Chase Bank account. The balance of the Hall of Fame account was \$11,729.79.**

**Motion made and seconded by Lew Bradley and Dave Willis to accept the reports. Motion carried.**

**Sickness and Distress:** Chaplain Bohach reported that Lou Kelter's dad passed.

**PRESENTATION – History and Activities of Veterans First nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization – Joan Sisco, CEO, briefed that Veterans First activities support outreach to veterans, their families and caregivers. Board of Directors includes Webb Ellis, John Aldecoa, David Childers, and Linda Eaton. Activities have included the AZ Veterans Registry, Medal of Honor event in Phoenix, Military Women's Symposium in Kingman, honoring of WWII women veterans at the 7/25/08 Phoenix Mercury game, and Operation Homefront rent assistance, food coupons, and gift cards for veterans and their families. \$150,000 is needed to finalize the placement of the Southeast Asia Memorial at Wesley Bolin Plaza in Fall 2009; State Senator Tom Smith is serving as a resource. Since govt agencies are not authorized to deposit private donations, Veterans First as a nonprofit organization serves as a bonded depository for private donations.**

**Presentation – Veterans Diversion Court orientation - Gregg Maxon, attorney; and Billy Little, Public Defender's Office, briefed the status of establishing a veterans diversion court process in AZ. Courts in the U.S. have been seeing an increase in veterans with mental**

health (PTSD, major depression) and/or drug abuse issues, and convicted of non-violent crimes. The idea of giving judges the discretion to divert such veteran offenders into alternative sentencing programs originated in Erie County, NY. Veterans are required to get mental health or addiction counseling, find jobs, stay clean and sober and get their lives back on track. The court's approach with offenders facing prosecution if they don't go through treatment, protects the public safety as well as helps the offender. Grant money is becoming available to community programs that divert veterans with trauma-related disorders from the criminal justice system. Maricopa judges, Phoenix PD, and Mesa PD are on board. One concern is mandatory sentencing -- there is no incentive for prosecutors to be supportive. Mentors are needed for the defendants -- mentors will work with the veterans to help ensure they stay in their program and conduct themselves as they should. Mentors may be asked to help the veterans find work. Mentors will also be a constant reminder that the veterans community is on the veterans' side and are willing to help.

## **REPORTS**

1. Arizona Dept of Veteran Services -- Dave Hampton reported that Senator Jack Harper is the new Chair, State Veterans and Military Affairs Committee.

2. VA Medical Center -- Rex Patterson, Patient Advocate, introduced Sarah Nelson, new Patient Advocate who is newly arrived from Denver, office 602.222.2274. VAMC Director Donald Moore is transferring to VAMC Loma Linda. Interim Director is Dr. Jamie Robins. Paul West, Associate Director, is retiring at the end of the month. Pharmacy renovation will be accomplished this month. Pharmacy recently evaluated well by the JACO Crediting Association. Official name for VAMC is Phoenix VA Health Care System.

3. National Memorial Cemetery Cave Creek -- Director Wayne Ellis reported that a Wreaths Across America event is scheduled for 10 a.m., Sat. Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>. Contact the Cemetery office for specific information regarding the 11 a.m. Wednesday honors ceremony.

## **UNFINISHED/OLD BUSINESS:**

1. UAV Membership Dues Status -- Chairman Fredricks reported that the following organizations would be unable to vote regarding the Copper Shield Award due to nonpayment of membership dues: FRA, In-Country Vietnam Veterans, Marine Corps League, NCOA, 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division, and Scottish-American Society.

**2. Copper Shield Award - Legislative Chair Fulkerson briefed 5 nominations to the body. Representative John Nelson received the most votes.**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**1. UAV Incorporation – Chairman Fredricks reported that the cost to incorporate is estimated to be \$125.00. However, Donna Adams reported that DAV's bylaws do not allow it to be a member of another organization. This is the same situation for the American Legion. Issue tabled.**

**2. Motion made and seconded by Dick Collis and Carol Hamburger requesting Chair, UAV to send to future Governor Jan Brewer a letter supporting keeping AZDVS Director COL Joey Strickland. There was consensus to invite future Governor Brewer to a UAV meeting.**

#### **FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER.**

**1. No Memorial Day Committee meeting on 12/6/08. (Jesse Gersten)**

**2. 11/15/08 – New flagpole at McGuireville was dedicated. (Bo Bohach)**

**3. 12/6/08 – American Legion Motorcycle Riders event at State Veteran Home donating \$20,000 of DVD players and DVDs. (Dick Collis)**

**4. 12/9/08 – Luncheon honoring Pearl Harbor Survivors at American Legion Luke-Greenway Post 1. (Carol Culbertson)**

**5. 12/16/08 – 12/20/08 – Snowball Express to Disneyland and Universal Studios, 50 families. (Kathy Upchurch)**

**6. 12/18/08, 12:30 p.m. - Second Anniversary, Military Hospitality Room, Terminal 2, Sky Harbor Airport.**

**7. 2/21/09 – Homeless Veterans Standdown (Art Sloane).**

**8. 3/11-17/09 - The American Veterans Traveling Tribute, formerly known as the Vietnam Wall traveling tribute, will be displayed on March 11-17, 2009 in Apache Junction. Volunteers are needed. (Lew Bradley)**

## **CLOSING & ADJOURNMENT**

- 1. UAV 50/50 Raffle – Winner was Lionel Sanchez, \$34.00; with \$34.00 going to the treasury.**
- 2. The next UAV meeting will be held on Saturday, January 3, 2009.**
- 3. Closing prayer was given by Chaplain Bohach.**
- 4. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m. with a closing salute to the flag.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Carol Culbertson**  
**Secretary, Unified Arizona Veterans**  
**Office/fax 602.943.7834**  
**Email: [carolculbertson@earthlink.net](mailto:carolculbertson@earthlink.net)**  
**[claudehc@yahoo.com](mailto:claudehc@yahoo.com) for large files**